President Grube Achieves Goals...

True to his word when he arrived on campus in the Summer of 1999, Georgia Southern President Bruce Grube announced Monday, November 24 he would resign the university presidency, effective June 30, 2009, exactly ten years after he began serving as the university's 11th president. He had said at the time, the effective life of a university president was ten years. "It is the right time for the university," Grube said in an email announcement to faculty and staff. "It has certainly been an honor beyond words for my wife Kathryn and me to have served at Georgia Southern University," he summarized in a subsequent press release.

In making the announcement, Grube indicated he will take one year of educational leave, or sabatical, as is customary at the University System of Georgia mentoring new presidents before returning to the classroom as a political science professor.

Grube's presidency has been transformational for the university. His stated goal of achieving academic distinction and national recognition as one of the top comprehensive residential universities in the nation has been accomplished.

During his ten-year tenure at Georgia Southern, enrollment has increased from 14,766 to 17,764 students, or 23 percent; average SAT scores for incoming freshmen increased from 987 to 1111, a 20 point or 13 percent increase; and retention rates have increased from 69 percent to 81 percent, an increase of 16 percent. Georgia Southern has won two NCAA football titles, added two new colleges—Continuing Education and Information Technology—and, recently, been designated a Carnegie research institution.

Grube presided over a ten-year capital investment program adding ten new buildings, including the College of Education, Nessmith-Lane Performing Arts Center, College of Information Technology, Nursing-Chemistry, Center for Arts & Theatre, Soccer and Track facility, Jesse Bishop Field House, J. J. Clements Baseball Center, Cowart Ticket and Administration Building, Jarish Football Center, and Bennett-Ransome Golf Center as well as the massive addition and renovation of the Zaxby's Henderson Library, now one of the finest university libraries in the Southeastern U.S. Likewise, on-campus living quarters have expanded significantly with Southern Courtyard, Southern Pines, Eagle Village, and the new 1,041-bed Centennial Place coming on-line in Fall 2009.

"If you just ride around campus, you can see Dr. Grube's legacy," observers concude, "when you combine our beautiful campus with higher academic standards you attract better students and faculty."

The Board of Regents will soon begin a national search, expected to take about a year, for Grube's replacement. An interim president could be named if a new president is not in place by July 1, 2009.

Originally from California, Grube served as president of St. Cloud State University in Minnesota from 1993 to 1999 prior to coming to Georgia Southern.

The Jane White Marketing Scholarships

When Jane F. White passed away in August 2001, she endowed awards for the Jane White Marketing Scholar, to recognize outstanding marketing faculty, and Jane White Marketing Scholarship, to recognize outstanding marketing students. Her legacy will recognize exceptional scholars in the marketing field for many years to come.

Dr. White was warmly remembered by colleagues for her sharp intellect and strength of mind. She received an associate of arts from Christian College in Columbus, MI, in 1937, a bachelor of science from Central College in Fayette, MO, in 1940, a master of business administration from the University of Denver in 1950, and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1974. She taught high school in Missouri, Maryland, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Oregon, Washington, and New York and a summer program at Columbia University in New York City.

In addition to her academic positions, Dr. White held secretarial positions with the St. Louis Union Trust Company, United States Cartridge Company, and Sears Roebuck and Company. She often incorporated her work experience and diverse background into her courses, making her a well-respected business communications professor.

Dr. White was hired by Dr. Paul L. Gren, dean of the School of Business at Georgia Southern College in 1952. Dr. White primarily taught business communications and business education courses at the graduate level. In 1976, she was appointed to the research committee of the American Business Communications Association.

In 1982, her former department chair, Dr. Bill Boe, professor emeritus, described Dr. White as a "professional, hard-working instructor." Her students describe her as a "taskmaster, yet always fair." Dr. Betty Lane, former chair of the Home Economics Department and a colleague of Dr. White's, described her as "a lovely lady, who could be rather sharp in her demeanor" explaining "she never wanted anyone to dominate her mind."

When Dr. White retired in June 1985 as porchessor emeritus, her retirement gift from the college was a trip to England for her many years of dedicated service.

In the ranking analysis, data from more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities are narrowed to 100 schools based upon various measures of academic quality, including percentage of the 2008-09 freshman class scoring 1200 or higher on the SAT, 24 or higher on the ACT, admissions rates, freshmen retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates as well as indicators of cost, including tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and books, along with receipts from grants, financial aid, and student borrowings. In the scoring system, academic quality carries more weight than cost.

Georgia Southern is one of three Georgia universities, including Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Georgia, recognized in the recently published annual listing. "We have continued to grow, attracting increasingly brighter and more talented students as parents recognize the value of a Georgia Southern education," said Dr. Theresa Thompson, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. This year, Georgia Southern's enrollment of 17,764 students, freshman retention of 81 percent, and average freshmen SAT score of 1111 were all-time highs for the growing university.
A Message from Dean Shiffler

Let’s do dinner. In your town. On your terms. I would like to visit with you and some of your friends and alumni to share the COBA story.

Within the last year we have been fortunate to have hired Linda Wilke as COBA’s first development officer. Linda and I created a new outreach idea called “Dine with the Dean” where we go out on the road to talk with alumni and COBA supporters about the exciting things going on in the business school.

All we need is an invitation and a host. Can we come over to your house? Have been to Mayville, KY (Tom Cox), Mason (Roger Murphy), Savannah (Bill Hasley), Dublin (Mike Cunningham), and have future trips scheduled for Attna (J.T. Marchosz), Augusta (Tommy Jenkins), Hilton Head Island, SC, and Orlando, FL (Laura and Harry Cavenoti).

We’ve talked about our new graduate programs, faculty accomplishments, growth in student numbers and quality, the Salo Center, the forensic accounting initiative, and... well... it’s a whole lot easier to do this person than it is to try to write it all out here. At dinner, we can have good exchanges, questions-and-answers, and an opportunity to fellowship with another in a more informal setting.

These events have proven to be fun and informative. We have also done breakfasts and lunches, so it doesn’t have to be dinner. My wife, Barbara, often joins us, so spaces are most definitely included.

Let’s do dinner! Just call Linda Wilke at 912-478-3277 or send her an email to lwilke@georgiasouthern.edu. We would love to hear from you.

Ronald E. Shiffler
Dean

Top 10 Reasons for Making a Contribution to COBA

#16 Reduced funding from State appropriations
#9 Ability to designate where your dollars go
#8 Personal pride in your alma mater
#7 A tax deduction!
#6 A sense of “giving back”
#5 National rankings
#4 100 percent of your contribution is used.

We often read about charities that use a portion of your contribution to cover expenses or employees’ salaries. In some cases, less than half of your contribution is actually used for the charitable purpose you intended.

Not so with a designated contribution to COBA. I emphasize the word “designated.” When you write a check to Georgia Southern Foundation, simply indicate on the check that you want the money to go to COBA. We do not subtract any “overhead” expenses from your contribution. All money that you contribute goes toward a COBA-related activity that could not be funded from state dollars alone.

Stay tuned for Reasons 3 through 1.

From the Alumni Editor

Greetings from the ’Boro

Recently, at Dean Emeritus Paul LaGrone’s 92nd birthday celebration, several of the most mature, living COBA faculty were reminiscing. It brought back memories of those earlier days in the Hollis Building. A number of our former students from those early years, the 1970’s, are still in Statesboro, including Doug Lambert, Billy Hickman, Frank Denmark, Jody Subbs, and others. It is very gratifying to know they are successful, happy, and contributing members of society. Just maybe this group of mature COBA faculty members had something to do with their successes. We would really like to hear from others who have yet to update their blue cord records.

Growing up in the 1940’s and 1950’s, my older relatives were forever reflecting upon the Winter of ’06, i.e., 1906, and events extending to the “last century.” It never occurred to me that one day I would be talking about what happened in ’06, but it would be 2006! Now I realize most of my life was in the “last century” and twenty-five years of it were in Hollis. Maybe I am sentimental, but I remember those Hollis years fondly. Old guys like Max Holland, “Scooter” Grider, Charlie Edmonds, John Beegle, Lloyd Doss, and others are still alive—so far as I know—and are often recalled and remembered by alumni with affection, albeit differing levels, I am sure.

Looking back over any print-out of our more than 18,000 COBA alumni, I notice some have no mailing address. We search Switchboard.com, Yahoo.com, graduation records, etc., and in most cases, when I find them, the response is “I am not lost; I have been here for years.” What I am saying is, “we can’t mail the Eagle Executive if we do not have a home mailing address.” Yes, we get a lot of returned mail, but, when the post office says, “Unable to Deliver as Addressed,” we go looking. So, if you see a copy of the Eagle Executive, and you did not get one, please let me know.

I am always interested in the success your grad rates, so if you hear of them, please let me know. The old saying about communication, “telegram, telephone, and tell-a-friend” still works, so, if you see a story, please share with me and keep those blue cards coming back.

Lewis M. Stewart
Alumni Editor
Information Systems is developing an online SAP Certificate program, including three graduate courses with hands-on SAP experience. One of the new courses, enterprise information systems, was offered for the first time during Fall 2008. This course provides an overview of enterprise system infrastructures and architectures and introduces students to SAP ERP navigation and SAP’s major modules. In Spring 2009, business intelligence will be offered as a CISM special problems course. Students in this course will get hands on experience with SAP’s Business Warehouse as well as a variety of data mining and business intelligence tools. In Summer 2008, students will have the opportunity to gain experience in SAP ERP configuration and implementation in CISM 7331. The primary focus in this course will be on SAP’s financial, control, material management, and sales and distribution modules.

Students have embraced the SAP courses and certification program with enthusiasm. “Before taking SAP classes at Georgia Southern University, I never realized the importance of information systems in a corporation. In the future, companies will not be able to function without structured information systems developed around business models. The combination of the two is what makes it successful. Only a few schools in the U.S. offer an SAP certification, which makes Georgia Southern University very unique. Having SAP experience has opened many doors in my career that I previously did not have;” says Jessica Celina, an MBA student.

The courses are being submitted for review and approval by SAP to enable MBA and MAcc students to earn an SAP Certificate while satisfying degree requirements. They could be used to fulfill the requirements for COBA’s MBA with information systems concentration or MAcc, or COST’s master of applied engineering with IT emphasis degree. Post-baccalaureate students may take SAP-approved undergraduate and graduate courses to earn an SAP Certificate.

The on-line graduate SAP Certificate program is projected to be launched in the 2009-2010 academic year. More information about the SAP undergraduate certificate and the IS minor for COBA students may be found on page 5. If interested, see http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/is/.
2008 Scholarship Recipients

Freeman Business Scholars
- Alyssa Oravecz
- Kurt Rigby
- Rebecca Whatley

Beta Gamma Sigma
- Elena Benincini and Human Resource Management Award and Savannah Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management Award

Delta Sigma Pi
- Jessica L. Murray
- Celeste Thompson

GATE Scholars
- Sally Lanthier, Shelli Sirmans, Phyllicia Brown, Angela Fish, Lana Yelina, Aaron Scale, Joshua Spain, and Jason Dulin with Dr. Lowell Mooney.

Dixie Crystals Scholars
- Robert T. Cox

Recipients Not Pictured*
- Paul LaGrone Scholarship: Kathy E. Brown and Charles J. Hodges
- The Wall Street Journal Award in Economics: Aubrey Smith
- The Wall Street Journal Award in Finance: Mitram Elizabeth Hood
- Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr., Information Systems Award: Olin J. Downs
- Albert J. Rose O’Connell Information Systems Award: Ross D. Yerden
- Tailored Business Systems Information Systems Award: Richard A. Mordecai
- Buddy Lichy Information Systems Award: Luke O. Odom
- Dr. Ulysses S. Knotts, Jr.: Carter B. Bricker
- Pickett/Garvin Scholarship: Andrew J. Szokoly
- Gaster Lumber Company Award: Bradley S. Harrelson
- Knarr Award: Holly C. Price
- Sack Company Marketing Service Award: Vicotria T. Brady
- Giacomo Family Memorial Scholarship in Marketing: Clayton D. Turner
- Georgia Retail Association Scholarship in Retailing: Leann Walls
- Top Student in Sales and Sales Management Award: Samantha Barrilett
- Logistics & Intermodal Transportation Award: Kelly Hanada
- Jane White Memorial Scholarship: Erica K. Frederick
- Charette Scholarships: Travis Gilbert, Stephanie Johnson, Chelsea Smith, Kristen Cole, Jennifer Hammonds, Lauren Thornhill, and Ericka Frederick
- Savannah Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management: Katherine Bonner
- University Tire Award: Timothy M. Coleman
- Georgia Society of CPAs: Jonathan Branch, Cole Brannham, Lesley Culbreth, Jennifer Gay, Lee Glosson, Whitney Howard, Chris Jenkins, Miranda Johnson, Erik Kramischutter, Duran Lane, Christine Larson, Madison Lee, Callan Lord, Kyle Manning, Brian Prevatt, Kashif Royal, Celeste Thompson, Travis Williams, and Krista Wood
- Institute of Management Accountants: Farah Punjani
- Paul LaGrone: Kathy Brown and Chase Hodges
- International Graduate Student Award: Clisha Cleveland
- Becker CPA Review: Maritika Jones
- University Tire Award: Timothy M. Coleman
- Georgia Society of CPAs: Jonathan Branch, Cole Brannham, Lesley Culbreth, Jennifer Gay, Lee Glosson, Whitney Howard, Chris Jenkins, Miranda Johnson, Erik Kramischutter, Duran Lane, Christine Larson, Madison Lee, Callan Lord, Kyle Manning, Brian Prevatt, Kashif Royal, Celeste Thompson, Travis Williams, and Krista Wood
- Institute of Management Accountants: Farah Punjani
- Paul LaGrone: Kathy Brown and Chase Hodges
- International Graduate Student Award: Clisha Cleveland
- Becker CPA Review: Maritika Jones
- Priddy-Price Scholarship: Kyle Baggett
- Dufphin and Tucker: Eric Smith
- Franklin, Mikell & Co.: Matthew Olson
- Mikell Family Scholarship: Kate Randall
- Gleim CPA Review: Ryan Brinson, William Donaldson, Paul Wilhelm, and Dmtryt Zyhest
- Holland, Henry and Bromley: Matthew Sellers
- Mauldin and Jenkins: Janna Green
- McLean, Callahan, McCollough, Clark and Co.: Sherry Bradl
- Moore, Stephens Tiller: Cristal Johnson
- D. Greg Morgan Family Scholarship: Mallory Nester
- Porter Keadle Moore: Matthew Steinberg
- Time Warner, Inc.: Priddy-Price: Walt Howard
- Robert F. Morris: Mason Harper
- Evelyn Span-Coie: Virginia S. Clark
- Robert T. Cox: Jonathan Branch
- CSX Transportation: Christina Smith and Xavier Pitts
- Mark Anderson: Phillip Buehrman
- Earle Cummings: Demetria J. Dekle

If you would like to support COBA’s scholarship programs, please contact Dean Ron Shiffler, Georgia Southern University, College of Business Administration, P.O. Box 8002, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002, phone (912) 478-COBA, Fax (912) 478-2626.
The Becker CPA Review

The Master of Accounting (MAcc) program at Georgia Southern focuses on the knowledge and skills needed for a career in public accounting. Since inception, the program has satisfied Georgia’s 150 semester-hour education requirement for a CPA. Yet, until 2008, few Georgia Southern students completed the CPA examination prior to graduation. The CPA exam is made up of four one-half day exams covering financial accounting, regulation, auditing, and business concepts.

In 2008, the School of Accountancy began offering the Becker CPA review, and the CPA exam pass rate for MAcc students jumped dramatically. Twenty-four students, faculty, and local practicing accountants enrolled in the Becker CPA review at Georgia Southern this fall. The results were outstanding. Georgia Southern’s Becker CPA review students passed 67 percent of the exams they took, a significant improvement over past experiences when Georgia Southern students had pass rates in the 20 to 25 percent range, and passing the entire CPA exam prior to graduation was extremely rare.

Georgia Southern students now have the option of taking the Becker CPA review for three semester hours of elective credit in the MAcc program. Students taking the review for credit must pass a rigorous in class exam after each portion of the CPA review.

MAcc graduates receive competitive job offers in public accounting, industry, government, and not-for-profit organizations. Accounting faculty are committed to student success, taking an active role in helping students identify and locate the right career option.

Verdict: Taking a Real World Approach

Students in Dr. Buckhoff’s expert witness class argued before Bulloch County State Court Judge Gary Mikell presiding over a mock proceeding of plaintiff shareholders in Brodnax Minerals Company, an exploratory gold mining company, versus defendant Healy & Wallace, L.I.P., an independent accounting firm that audited Brodnax’s financial statements.

The purpose of the event was to provide the students a hands-on opportunity to prepare expert reports and provide testimony in an actual courtroom, invaluable experience in developing their careers in forensic accounting.

The plaintiff’s position was simply Healy & Wallace violated professional standards in issuing a clean audit opinion subsequently relied upon by shareholders investing $4 billion in Brodnax, which had fraudulently overstated the amount of gold at its sole mining site. After the massive fraud was uncovered, “investors lost virtually all of their investment, primarily due to the lax oversight of accountants,” according to allegations. The students on the defense team begged to differ, arguing the “accountants had no knowledge of the fraud, and indeed were deceived themselves.” Laura Wheaton, from Brown, Routtree, PC, served as consulting attorney for the plaintiff team while Susan Cox, from Edenfield, Cox, Bruce, and Classens offered consultation for the defense team.

The jury, comprised of Georgia Southern students and professional community volunteers, deliberated the issues and rendered a verdict in favor of the accounting firm, holding them harmless in the fraud case. Matt Barnhill, who delivered plaintiff’s opening statement, concluded the mock trial was a resounding success saying, “It is nice to get outside the classroom and get hands-on experience.” “Nothing we read in a textbook or discuss in class can substitute for an opportunity to experience this setting,” continued John Bowles, who offered defense testimony.

CIT Advisory Board Meets

On Friday evening, an informal reception was held, and the board enjoyed refreshments, finger foods, and an opportunity to network with faculty members from each department on current business practices and trends. The primary topics of discussion centered on keeping CIT program curricula current to best prepare Georgia Southern students for employment and stimulating demand for CIT graduates. It was an enjoyable interlude between work sessions.

The College of Information Technology extends thanks to the Advisory Board members for their service, concluding, “Your support is critical to our future success and continuously keeping CIT on the cutting edge.”

New IS Minor

Information technology (IT) is woven into the fabric of today’s businesses and is a driver of most business innovations. Organizations need business professionals who “get” IT and the newly minted information systems (IS) minor has the potential to help COBA graduates stand out in the job market.

The IS minor has been tailored to appeal to business majors but can be completed by accounting and logistics majors. More especially valuable résumé-builder for other business minors, it requires students to complete three SAP-approved courses and earn an SAP Certificate. This certificate can expand student career options and help graduates catch the attention of SAP user organizations.

The IS minor can strengthen the résumé of students for employment in IT, be a knowledgeable user of IT, and be that person in the business unit who can successfully interact and work with technology professionals.

The IS minor can strengthen the résumé of any COBA major and it may be an especially valuable résumé-builder for accounting and logistics majors. More information about the minor and the SAP Certificate are available on the Information Systems Department’s webpage http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/is/. See related story on page 3.

Mock trial student participants, Trang Vu and Matt Barnhill, listen carefully to expert witness testimony.

Judge Mikell swears in “expert witness,” Andrew Mossburg, before testimony begins.

The College of Information Technology building
Farewell from the Director

After serving Graduate Studies coordinator for more than twelve years, I must say farewell and return to the classroom full-time. As I contemplated this decision, along with the breadth and depth of today’s COBA grad program and its future, it became clear the outstanding faculty support, knowledgeable staff, and technological platform will be a great strength to the successor of this office. The past twelve years have been amazing, and I cannot speak highly enough of how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve COBA in this capacity.

Over the years, I have seen the graduate program grow from delivery at the Boater’s World building near Savannah Mall, when the MAcc program was just getting off the ground, to broad and diversified offering of courses, programs, and degrees. Now, we offer the full MBA program from the state-of-the-art Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah, our MAcc program is nationally recognized, and the Georgia WebMBA has become a huge success. We have recently introduced new programs in economics and forensics. It is amazing how much things have changed, how fast time has passed, and how much fun we have had in the process!

So, I bid farewell with a slight touch of regret and longing, cherish the many students I have befriended over the years, and will miss the daily involvement with the graduate students, faculty and staff, but I am excited about being able to return full time to my first love - the classroom. I thank everyone for the many years of support and wish the next director best of luck.

Mike McDonald

MBA in the Spotlight

Tero Kyckling received a BA from Murray State University, then an MBA from Georgia Southern University in 1993. Tero, senior partner manager with Nokia Corporation in Finland, recently visited COBA friends in Statesboro on a trip to Florida for vacation. Lewis Stewart taught Tero when he was at Southern and hosted a meet and greet with faculty and students in his honor. Kyckling reminisced fondly about his days as a Georgia Southern student noting, “Georgia Southern will be a part of me for the rest of my life. I check the football stats every Monday morning and read the ‘Dean’s Update’ every Friday. I had a wonderful experience during my time at Georgia Southern.”

Speaking of the MBA program, Tero continued, “The Georgia Southern MBA program provided me with the tools I needed to succeed. The business courses and case studies gave me a solid foundation on which to begin my corporate business career in Finland.”

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MBA in the City

The College of Business Administration held its second MBA in the City information session at Blowing Smoke Restaurant in Savannah on October 2, 2008. The information session was held for anyone interested in taking MBA classes in Savannah. Faculty, current MBA students, and alumni were on hand to answer questions and make the session a fun and informative event. Tim Cairney, interim director of COBA Graduate Studies, and Dean Ron Shiffler showed how our MBA program is uniquely relevant to the needs of business leaders in the 21st century. If you are interested in learning more about the MBA in the City program, please go to www.mbaninthecity.com.

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Jordan Dukes

Jordan Dukes (Information Systems 1999) began his career as a network engineer for The Home Depot at its corporate headquarters in Atlanta. He was involved in several projects including WAN connectivity, re-addressing, and documenting server and bandwidth utilization for Home Depot eCommerce. As a senior network engineer working with AT&T and British Telecom in 2000, he worked in concert with sales teams to design and implement custom solutions for data customers, becoming a senior sales engineer for BT Global Services that year. With primary responsibilities for customer presentations, request for proposal and bid preparation, and technical bid qualification, Jordan was responsible for growing, maintaining, and protecting customer revenue. He consistently exceeded quarterly sales objectives with technical responsibilities for transformational bids including single source vendor aggregation and outsourcing.

Later, Jordan accepted a sales engineer position with World Wide Packets where he was responsible for all accounts in the Southeast U.S. as well as several national wireline service accounts. Earlier this year, Ciena acquired World Wide Packets and, since, Jordan has served as senior sales engineer and carrier ethernet subject matter expert (SSE-CESME) the only one in Pental and one of few in Georgia, Nebraska, or even Hong Kong.

Kim Brannen

Kim Brannen (Finance 1994) of Sea Island Bank, Statesboro, was recently installed as president of Leadership OBA, sponsored by the Georgia Bankers Association, at the association’s 48th annual leadership conference in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Leadership OBA is comprised of young, emerging banking leaders throughout the state.

Kim is vice president and manager of Sea Island Bank’s Private Client Group. She joined Sea Island Bank as a commercial lender in 1997. Through her association with Synovus Securities, Inc., she holds a Series 7 License (General Securities Representative), a Series 66 License (Investment Adviser and Uniform Securities Representative) and a Georgia license to sell annuities, life and health insurance. As manager of the Private Client Group, Kim is involved with a team of private bankers, mortgage specialists, trust professionals, securities financial consultants, and financial planners at headquartered in Sea Island Bank’s Professional Center in Statesboro’s Market District.

Kim is a board member for CSRA Business Lending, Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce, and Leadership Bulloch. She has held leadership positions on Joseph’s Home for Boys executive committee, the Bulloch County Board of Education School Council, and Youth Leadership Bulloch.

Kim has been recognized by awards from the Georgia Bankers Association President’s Circle and Chamber of Commerce President’s Award. Active in First Baptist Church of Statesboro, she serves as a Sunday School teacher and Royal Ambassador leader. Kim lives in Statesboro with her husband, Aubrey Brannen III, and sons, Jodson (11) and John-Daniel (9).

Steve Benson

Steve Benson (Finance 1987), a tennis player at Georgia Southern, began a 19-year career in employee benefits with Scotia McLeod in his native Toronto, Canada, after graduation. He later joined North American Life, acquired by Manulife Financial, and subsequently Money & Money as Group Benefits Consultant before starting his own firm, Benson Benefits Consulting in 2004. Having the independence of running his own practice afforded Steve the opportunity get involved in his first passion, tennis, as a Certified Tennis Canada and freelance instructor in Barrs and the City of Barrs Par and Recreation program. Another passion, the Harris-Huerosi Rotary Club, has afforded the past director and public relations director additional opportunity for community involvement.

Recently, Steve has merged Benson Benefits Consulting with Penmore Benefits, Inc., the employee benefits division of Penmore Financial Group, a full-service, comprehensive financial security planning firm, specializing in estate, corporate, and wealth planning firm based in Concord, Ontario. “I am most proud of the fact that I have established a very strong reputation in the employee benefits field with the highest of ethical standards, been married for over 17 years to an incredible woman, and been blessed with two amazing children—a son (15) and a daughter (12)”

Brandon Gillis

Brandon Gillis’s (Information Systems 2000) first job following graduation was webmaster and corporate intranet manager for Savannah-based H.O. Systems. In January 2001, he joined IBM as a service delivery manager for end-to-end delivery of strategic outsourcing accounts. Brandon was also responsible for managing customer expectations and contract deliverables. He branched out with his own business as a sole proprietor in Gillis Construction, LLC, in 2004 and then, in April 2007, left IBM to serve as director of operations for ComputeLogic, an Internet company that, since 1997, has become one of the collision repair industry’s most respected software development companies. His responsibilities include managing the execution and delivery of all products and services sold to customers and carries out project management duties as needed for new and existing customer accounts.
November 20 was Entrepreneurship Day for Georgia Southern’s Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology. Two events highlighted Dr. Luke Pittaway’s and the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership’s focus on entrepreneurial opportunities for students and faculty.

First, entrepreneurship students in Dr. Pittaway’s classes exhibited their business concept projects in the atrium of the Information Technology building. A Venture Concept Exhibition, first of many to come, offered student teams an opportunity to identify a unique business concept, assess the potential market, and develop a presentation to test the public acceptance and viability of their ideas. The presentations were fascinating, ranging from manufacturing to service in a wide spectrum of industries. The idea was to develop market input and feedback before full business plan development.

The highlight of the day was a seminar, World-Class Entrepreneurship as Experience, both held at the Nesssmith-Lane Performing Arts Center. The presentation focused upon entrepreneurship as a philosophy, or choice of emphasis, in decision-making. The research seminar highlighted the experiential nature of entrepreneurship that results in entrepreneurs being shaped by the venture as much as the entrepreneur shapes and governs the venture.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Morris, holds the Witting Chair in Entrepreneurship at Syracuse University and serves as chair of the Department of Entrepreneurship & Emerging Enterprises,a program identified as the national Model Program in Entrepreneurship by the U. S. Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Dr. Morris holds a PhD in marketing from Virginia Tech, an MS in economics, an MBA, and has been a principal in three entrepreneurial start-ups. He has published four books, authored hundreds research articles, and has been honored as Pi Sigma Epsilon National Faculty Advisor of the Year, NCEC’s 21st Century Entrepreneurship Research Fellow, Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year, and received the prestigious Apple Prize for contributions to the field of entrepreneurship. Dr. Morris, a former Fulbright Scholar to South Africa, was recognized as the Outstanding MBA Professor at Syracuse and received the Oberwager Prize for impacting students beyond the classroom.

As part of the Center’s mission and in conjunction with Dr. Morgan Miles’s entrepreneurial research, Dr. Nicole Coviello, research fellow at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, presented a seminar, Publishing Across Disciplines: A Long and Winding Road, to research professors from across entrepreneurship disciplines, reflecting upon the success, risk, and investigative opportunity of multi-disciplinary inquiry. Dr. Coviello received her PhD in marketing and international business from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, has published widely, and serves on numerous editorial boards, having recently received the 2008 Best Reviewer award from the Journal of International Business Studies.

The Daylite Solutions Team

The Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership

Syracuse University

Dr. Michael Morris presents entrepreneurship theory.

SOA Professor Certified

Thomas Buckhoff, associate professor of accounting, has recently been awarded the Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) Credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The CFF Credential, established in 2008 by the AICPA, is granted to qualified CPAs with considerable professional experience in financial forensics. Dr. Buckhoff met the requirements to earn the CFF credential, which include demonstrating significant business experience in the area of financial forensics as well as completing a minimum of 75 hours of life-long learning and education activities in the area of financial forensics. The CFF Credential is granted exclusively to CPAs who are members in good standing of the AICPA, which binds them to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

CPAs who have earned the CFF Credential must be recertified every three years to maintain their credential.

The AICPA (www.aicpa.org) is the national, professional association of CPAs, with more than 350,000 members, including CPAs in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets ethical standards for the profession and U.S. auditing standards for audits of private companies; federal, state, and local governments; and non-profit organizations. It also develops and grades the Uniform CPA Examination. Headquartered in New York, the AICPA also maintains offices in Washington, DC; Durham, NC; and Lewisville, TX.

WTOC Economic Crisis Forum

WTOC Channel 11, Savannah, news commentator Mike Manhattan moderated a panel discussion about the financial crisis in the U.S and global economy in mid-October at the Nesssmith-Lane Performing Arts Center. Panel experts included Dr. Michael Reksulak, economics, Mr. Ed Sibbald, banking, and Dr. Bill Wells, financial markets. WTOC television covered the event, open to the public, with live-remotes by anchor Manhattan and reporter Dal Kennedy. Dr. Wells made a guest appearance earlier on WTOC’s “Mid-Morning Live with Sonny and Jody” television show to promote the event and invite public participation. Each panelist presented a short PowerPoint presentation and then fielded audience questions through Mr. Manhattan.

MAcc Tax Research in Tampa

Cheryl Metrejean, assistant professor, accompanied her MAcc tax research class students Matt Sellers, Sam Evans, Brian Prevatt, Jenna Lay, and Julia Collins to Tampa, FL, to attend the U.S. Tax Court in November.

In their first session, an innocent spouse case presented a great example of “facts and circumstances” for students. Tears of an emotional witness and evidence excluded because the IRS failed to provide taxpayer notice heightened the drama for a case students saw on their final exams.

In the next session, tax protesters Impronta and Sweeney appeared before the court claiming the U.S. has no valid taxing authority or statute. Students were amazed to learn taxpayers actually go to court making such arguments and thinking they will win. presiding judge Thomas Wells made time to meet with the class during a break in the trial. He was very open and candid in talking about the tax court, how it operates, and challenges it faces.

Financial support for the trip was provided by the Faculty Development Committee of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and the Graduate Student Professional Fund in the Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies.
**COBA Welcomes New Faculty**

The newest members of the COBA family are presented below. Each person emerged as the top candidate in the search processes, and we are excited about the talents and skills they bring to COBA. Please join us in welcoming them to the team. We presently have a total of four faculty searches for the 2009-2010 year: a department chair search and an international management faculty search in the Department of Management, Marketing, & Logistics; director of the School of Economic Development search; and an MBA director and non-tenure track faculty search in the Office of Graduate Studies. We are excited about the prospects of adding additional new faculty in our corps of instruction.

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**Sahar Bahmani**  
**School of Economic Development**

Sahar Bahmani, visiting professor, brings six years of teaching and her research in macroeconomics, monetary economics, and economic development to Georgia Southern. Her hobbies include playing piano and tennis as well as working out and spending time with her family and husband, who is a professor in the political science department at Georgia Southern.

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**Joon-Kun Cho**  
**Department of Management, Marketing & Logistics**

Jay Cho, assistant professor of logistics, earned his PhD and MBA from the University of Arkansas, MS from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and BA from the Korea Military Academy in Seoul, Korea. Previously, Dr. Cho served in the Korean and U.S. Army as a professional officer more than 20 years before joining academia. Dr. Cho’s primary research interests are in the area of global supply chain management, third party logistics and outsourcing, performance measurement scale development, and e-based logistics. His daughter, Yoon-Na, is a doctoral student in marketing; his wife is Joyce Lee.

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**Janet Moss**  
**Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis**

Janet Moss, lecturer, earned an MBA from Georgia State University and a BA in management and psychology from the University of South Florida. Mrs. Moss has been an instructor in the College of Business since 2000. She taught business statistics and human resource management at Delta State University and has more than 10 years of private industry experience in the human resources field and more than 10 years of teaching experience at the college level. Mrs. Moss and her husband, Steve, live in Statesboro with their two children.

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**William I. Norton, Jr.**  
**Department Management, Marketing & Logistics**

Bill Norton, associate professor of management, earned a PhD from the University of South Carolina. His teaching and research interests are strategy, entrepreneurship, leadership, and ethics. Dr. Norton taught at Indiana University Southeast and at the University of Louisville before joining the COBA faculty. A former infantry officer and CPA, he makes his home in Statesboro with his wife, Elaine, and their daughter, Macy.

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**Yuan Wen**  
**Department of Finance & Quantitative Analysis**

Yuan Wen successfully defended her dissertation in March 2008 and received her PhD in finance at Temple University. Her research is focused on issues of corporate governance, executive compensation and ownership structure. Dr. Wen’s teaching experience is in corporate finance and financial institutions. She has worked in the areas of corporate board structure. Dr. Wen is a member of the Financial Management Association.

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**Michael Wiggins**  
**School of Accountancy**

Michael Wiggins, assistant professor, received a BA in fine arts from Wichita State, a PMBA from the University of Massachusetts, and a JD from University of Arizona. He has more than ten years practical experience in corporate law, litigation, employment law, and business ethics. Dr Wiggins has taught business law at the university level, developed on-line courses, and is Blackboard certified. His research interests include on-line education administration and the interaction between law and business.
Colleges of Business Administration and Information Technology

2008 FACTS & FIGURES

The number of internships for students in the College of Business Administration averages more than 150 annually. These come from a variety of companies including the Altel, American Ports Services, Briggs & Stratton, Center Homes, Chateau Elan Hotels & Resorts, D. J. Powers, Inc., Dairy Queen, Denman & Brown, DNF, Dos Foods, East Georgia Regional Center, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Expeditors International, Florida State University, Frances B. Dantzler, CPA, Future Trees, Inc., Georgia Ports Authority, Georgia Southern University, Habitat for Humanity, Hancock Askew & Co., International Center for Leadership & Coaching, Interstate Transport, JIT Warehousing, Kimberly-Clark Corp., Lanier Worldwide, Inc., Liberty Tax & Accounting Service, Mass Media Marketing, Memorial Hospital, Mermaid Cottages, Merrill Lynch, Moe’s Southwest Grill, Mountville Mills, Inc., NeSmith Chevrolet, New York Stock Exchange, Ogeechee Technical College, Park Avenue Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Regis, Sea Island Bank, Serenity Day Spa & Salon, Southern Boosters, Spirit and Truth Worship Center, Starlight Children’s Foundation, Taco Bell, Target Stores, The Herff Jones Company, Uline, and Vircon.

The College of Business Administration has 98 full-time faculty members, 11 administrative and part-time faculty, and 18,108 alumni; the College of Information Technology has 25 full-time faculty members, 14 administrative and part-time faculty, and 379 alumni.

FALL 2008 ENROLLMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COBA Pre-Business</th>
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<tr>
<td>CIT Pre-Technology</td>
<td>316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Majors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounting</td>
<td>257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Systems</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics / Intermodal</td>
<td>118</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
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<td>Master of Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Business Admin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Applied Econ</td>
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<td>WebMBA</td>
<td>68</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total COBA and CIT Students</td>
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2007-08 GRADUATES¹

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<tr>
<td>BBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>BS (CIT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAcc</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBA</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web MBA</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>714</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Represents 25.3% of total degrees conferred in 2008.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Accounting Association
Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
Association for Computing Machinery
Association of Information Technology Professionals
American Marketing Association
Beta Alpha Psi Accounting Association
Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society
Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity
Economics Club
Finance Club
Georgia Retail Association
Logistics Association
Graduate Student Organization
Students in Free Enterprise
National Association of Black Accountants
Society for Human Resource Management

Mark your calendar for the 16th Annual COBA Golf Tournament

Friday, May 15, 2009
Forest Heights Country Club

Morning
Registration: 7:30 – 8:00 A.M.
Shotgun Start: 8:00 A.M.

Afternoon
Registration: 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.
Shotgun Start: 1:00 P.M.

Mulligans $5.00 each (limit 4 per player)
For pre-registration, contact Lisa Williams (lwms@georgiasouthern.edu).
Eagle Executive Society Charter Members

The Eagle Executive Society is focused upon building communication between COBA and its alumni. Alumni and friends who invest $50 in the student, faculty, programs, and future success of COBA during 2008 are considered Charter Members and receive a certificate of stock in COBA, a subscription to the Eagle Executive, and personal invitations to special receptions, seminars, and programs. The Eagle Executive Society supports activities beyond the classroom by funding student competitions, travel, scholarships, assistantships, research, and scholarly endeavors. You may become a Charter Member before year-end 2008 at https://touchpay.georgiasouthern.edu/eagleexecutive/. Current charter members are listed below:

G. Douglas Aiken
Douglas Aiken
David M. Aiken
Paul D. Albert
James D. Alderman
William Anderson
Mark H. Anderson
Frances Bagley
Robert J. Bailey
Perry C. Barnett
Rick Barr
Richard Alan Bean
Lovett Bennett, Jr.
Melinda M. Bergbom
Edmilson Bernardes
Gray M. Bishop
Patrick G. Blanchard
Linda Blieken
Leonard H. Blount
Gary A. Blount
William H. Bolen
Thomas P. Bond, Jr.
William J. Bostwick
Edward S. Bowles
Esther Bowman
Richard Bowman
Richard Bowman, Jr.
Dale Braddy
Theresa S. Brennan
Brian C. Brennan
Gregory J. Stick
John H. Brown
Steve Brown
Hoke S. Brunson, Jr.
Adam S. Bryant
G. Wallace Bryson
Mack Bryson, Jr.
M. Albert Burke
Gerard Burke
Bryan R. Burke
Max Burns
Lisa Butler
Don E. Callaway
Harry S. Carter
Brenda S. Carter
Rosemary Carter
Johnny L. Carter
Tom Case
Richard J. Chambers
Sarah J. Chester
Joong-Kun Cho
Donald W. Cioban
David T. Clayton
Wesley Cobb
James T. Coe
Alvie Coes, III
Doug Collins III
G. Gregory Colson
Thomas G. Connor
Lisa Conti-Bacon
Kerry H. Cotter III
Jack L. Culpepper, Jr.
W. Mike Cummings
Lynn Dadisman
R. Bruce Damody
Casey Dare, Sr.
Tommy David
Elynor Davis
James E. Davis, Jr.
Margot M. Dawkins
BARRY W. DEAL
Frances S. Deal
Julian I. Deal
Frank Denmark
Trey Denton, III
D. Morgan Derst
Mary Devine
Charles H. Dickson, Jr.
John Franklin Dismuke
Sean Dodrill
Justin L. Dunn
Lori S. Durden
Dustin Durden
Jacqueline K. Eastman
Kevin L. Eastman
Michael English
Donna Lesia Finch-Thomas
Olivia S. Flanagan
Leslie B. Fletcher
Jenny S. Foss
Sara Fournant
Peter L. Fraley
Robert Franklin
George Freeman
Jenny L. Gentry
Godfrey A. Gibbison
Carl Googling
Barbara Greer
Nathaniel Green
William I. Griffith
Sara Jeanette Grimes
Shelton Hall
Horace W. Harrell, Jr.
Larry F. Harrison
Consuelo Hart
Charles Harter
Peter Hayes
Mary F. Hazeldine
William D. Head
Bill T. Herrin
Nancy Herrin
Leonard E. Herrington
William R. Hickman, Jr.
Edwin G. Hill
James M. Hood
Myrna Hood
Donald D. Howard
Angelina Huggins
Robert Jackson
Ori James
Matthew H. Janosky
Jeanette K. Jenkins
John Jennings
Lindsay D. Johnson, Jr.
Michael K. Johnson
Thomas E. Johnson
Thomas W. Jones
Dennis F. Jones, Jr.
James M. Joyce
Kelly M. Kalheb
Julia Ann Kelly
Sharon Kelly
Evetret Kennedy III
William C. Kirby
Brent Kittel
Sean Micheal Knox
John F. Kohn
Brian Kranschuster
Jonathan Lafavers
Paul Lagrone
Douglas H. Lambert
Jamie Lane
David Emory Lane
Josh Matthew Lane
John Leaptrott, Jr.
Samantha G. Lee
W. John Lee, Jr.
Ryan Lewis
Buddy Lichty
Mary J. Lockwood
Larry L. Lord
Misty Loughry
Carolyn Luckadoo
David M. Luckie
Ronald A. Lundstrom
Abby Lynes
Todd Manack
Gabriel Manning
Karl B. Manrodt
Jiminy F. Marshall, Jr.
David W. Mayer
Steve B. McClelland
Lauren McCraw
John McDaniel
Mike McDonald
Samuel A. McDuffie
C. William McGehee
Matthew R. McGhee
Britton McKay
William H. Melan
Beverly W. McLendon
Robert Melton
Cheryl T. Metrejean
Paul Metrejean
Morgan P. Miles
Lowell Mooney
James L. Moore
H. Phillip Moore, Jr.
Richard A. Moreau
D. Greg Morgan
Joshua B. Morris
Melanie B. Mosley
Linda Mullin
Linda S. Munilla
Ed Nelson
Maurice H. Nimmons, Jr.
Charley Nix
Lana Nix
Thomas G. Nolan
G. Mike Odum, Jr.
Timothy O'Mahony
Robert R. Padgett
Abbe Parham
Kelly C. Penn
David K. Pitman
Luke Pittaway
James Pollak
Andrea Powell
Del E. Pressey
Larry E. Price
Russell A. Priddy
Alicia P. Priddy
James Randall
Cindy H. Randall
Stephen E. Rarby
Mona K. Ratchford
Danny Keith Ricks
Glen Riecken
Patrick S. Rising
Charles G. Rogers
Stephen J. Roentree
Madeleine Ruhland
Michael Ryan
Michael R. Sanders
Ryan J. Schneider
John J. Schuyler III
Erica Sellers
Louise S. Shackelford
C. David Shepherd
Thomas Sherrouse
Ron Shiffner
Barbara Shiffner
Charles Shuman
Edward Sibbald
Maria Sibbald
Ralph S. Sikorski
John Dennis Silva
Jacob V. Simons
Michael W. Skinner
William R. Smith
Carole J. Smith
Jennifer S. Smith
Lowell Smelthian, Jr.
Jean Carol Spoolstra
Roland W. Stalnaker
Justin Stamey
Helen Stembridge
Asbury Stembridge, Jr.
Rieni A. Stephens III
Lewis M. Stewart
Charlene K. Stewart
Alan M. Straw
William N. Straw, Jr.
David A. Streets
Jody P. Stubbs
Perry Sumner, Jr.
Cathy Owens Swift
Cheryl Tatum
Thomas Tharpe
Robert E. Thigpen, Jr.
Nina Thompson
Valerie A. Thompson
Lee Tompkins, Jr.
Joseph Tompkins
Kris Michael Traharn
Edward Trizzino
F. Ward Trulock
Scott Tuttle
Derick Tuttle
Allison Vaughn
Robert Verhey
Robert Horton Ware
Benjamin B. Watkins III
Misty Watson
Mark A. Weeks
William H. Wells
Linda Wilke
Susan R. Williams
Bobbie Williams
Richard S. Williams
Alvin Williams
Lois Williams
Kyle Williams
Russell Williams, Jr.
Lynda B. Williamson
Bonnie C. Wilson
Jerry Wilks, Smith
Wendel H. Wilson
William R. Woolford
Mircle Yap
Karl Van Zeigler
Kimberly Zelle
W. L. “Bill” Thomas (1988 MGT), Big Bad Wolf Barbeque, catered a barbecue luncheon for the homecoming cookout held under the water tower in the parking lot of Paulson Stadium. Special thanks are extended to COBA’s Homecoming Committee, Jerry Wilson, professor of logistics and marketing; Jan Grimes, instructor of management; Linda Mullen, assistant professor of management; Susan Williams, associate dean; and Lisa Williams, administrative specialist, for their help with this event. Later that day, Georgia Southern’s Eagles suffered a heartbreaking loss to Samford’s Bulldogs. The final score was 27-17.
Accounting

G. Mike Odom, IV (1984), Richmond Hill, is now an executive vice president and Liberty County division president for the Coastal Bank, Hinesville. He is married to Mary Hannaford, a 1984 Georgia Southern accounting graduate, and they have two children.

Mark G. Reddick (1989; MBA 1994), formerly in Grayson, is now in Cumming, where he is dean of technical studies for Appalachian Technical College Jasper. Email: markreddick@hotmail.com.

Donaldson, and they have a daughter.

Michelle Cufforth Wells (1993; MBA 1994), formerly in Quincy, IL, is now in Greer, SC, where she is a tax manager and CPA with Ernst & Young, Greenville, SC. She is married to Derek Wells, and they have two daughters.

Michell Cufforth Wells (1993; MBA 1994), formerly in Quincy, IL, is now in Greer, SC, where she is a tax manager and CPA with Ernst & Young, Greenville, SC. She is married to Derek Wells, and they have two daughters.

Michael S. Lambirth (1994), Quinton, VA, is an attorney with Capital One, Richmond.

John R. Massey (1994), CPA, Savannah, is now a partner in Hancock & Askew, CPA. He is married to Susanne Clay, a 1995 Georgia Southern accounting graduate. Email: jmassey@hancockaskew.com.

Katrina R. Fisher (1996), Columbia, SC, has been named vice president and accounting manager for South Carolina Bank & Trust. She is married to William Donaldson, and they have a daughter. Katrina received an MBA from Albany State.

J. Matt Lane (1996), Nashville, TN, is now vice president of Gen Cap America. His wife is Ashley. Email: mlane@gencapamerica.com.

Jim W. Vaughn, II (1998), formerly in Warren, is now in Albany, where he is a partner and CPA with Mauldin & Jenkins, CPAs. He recently married Michelle Greenway, a 1998 Georgia Southern biology graduate.

Bethany Goss (2000; MAcc 2001), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Gwyn, where she is a valuation analyst with Hancock Askew & Co., CPAs, Savannah. She is married to Brandon Hofman. Email: bhofman@hancocksaskew.com.

Carrrie Elizabeth Scott (2001), Statesboro, an employee of Southern States Coop, is engaged to Jonathan Carter Rafferty, a Virginia Commonwealth University graduate.

Bradley E. Meader (2004), formerly in Duluth, is now in Bethlehem, PA, where he is a mortgage broker with Lenox Financial. He is a CPA in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Bradley is married to Jessica Rodgers Reese and was one of our soccer players. Email: bmeader@hotmail.com.

Jennifer L. Denmark (2005), formerly in Brooklet, is now in Atlanta, where she is a mortgage broker with Lenox Financial. He is a CPA in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Bradley is married to Jessica Rodgers Reese and was one of our soccer players. Email: bmeader@hotmail.com.

Jennifer L. Denmark (2005), formerly in Brooklet, is now in Atlanta, where she is a mortgage broker with Lenox Financial. He is a CPA in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Bradley is married to Jessica Rodgers Reese and was one of our soccer players. Email: bmeader@hotmail.com.

Business Administration

Robert Franklin (1964), Statesboro, owner/president of Franklin Toyota, is the recipient of the President’s Award from Toyota for the second straight year. His dealership is the area’s only two consecutive year winner of the award.

Economics

Uli Ebensperger (2002), Aldorf, Germany, is an analyst with Cohen & Company, Paris. Uli was one of our tennis players. Email: uliebensperger@hotmail.com.

Shantell S. Roberson (2004), formerly in Pooler, is now in Garden City, where she is a project manager with the Savannah Economic Development Authority. She recently married James Wilson, a current student at Savannah Technical College.

Terehnce McDiffie (2006), Pooler, is currently working on his MBA at Georgia Southern.

Michelle M. Boss (1985), formerly in Rome, is now in Loganville, where she is the owner of Razzles Daycare Center. She is married to Donald Boss.

John Edward Waters (1988), Ooltewah, TN, is the lead pastor for the Christway Community Church. He is married to Angela Riley, a 1989 Georgia Southern printing management graduate. John, from Statesboro, was one of our cross country runners. Email: jwaters@christwaychurch.org.

Wesley S. Fountain (1989), Swainsboro, has a prosperous rental business.

R. Steve Raine (1989), formerly in Covington, is now in Jackson, where he is the production supervisor for The Scott’s/Miracle/Gro Company. He has a son named Austin. Email: steve.raines@scotts.com.

Brian R. Markowitz (1991), Savannah, is now vice president of Morgan Keegan. His wife is Amy Rahn, and they have two children. Email: brian.morgan@morgankeegan.com.

Ryan T. Schneider (1991), Savannah, president of Hostetter Schneider Realty Partners, is also president of the Realtors Commercial Alliance. Ryan is also president of Savannah/Hilton Head realtors Commercial Alliance. He is married to Sharon Stubbs. Email: ryan@hurealypartners.com.

James M. “Jamey” Durrence, III (1994), Glennville, has been promoted to senior vice president and chief development officer for The Claxton Bank. His wife is Amber Claxton, and they have two children Mikaley and Banks.

Simon Sikes Lane (1997), Statesboro, has been selected Teacher of the Year for William James Middle School. She has MEd and EDS degrees from Georgia Southern as well as her BBA. Simon is married to John Lane, a 1993 Georgia Southern finance graduate, and they have two children, Britt (5) and John Daniel (2). Email: simonsikeslane@hotmail.com.

Walter “Nick” Prapps (1998), formerly in Bethesda, MD, is now in Statesboro, where he is an associate broker with Manack Signature Properties. Email: njprapp.com.

Jill Freeman Forehand (1999), Sylvia, is now the assistant director of donor relations for Georgia Southern. She is married to Jason Forehand. Email: jforehand@georgiasouthern.edu.

Sheila Rogers Hill (1999; MBA 2001), formerly in Jesup, is now in McDonough, where she is an Act II with the Georgia Department of Labor. She is married to Lance A. Hill, a 1999 Georgia Southern finance graduate. While in the MBA program, Sheila was a graduate assistant in the Office of Publications and helped put out the Eagle Executive and other COBA publications. Email: sheilarhill@yahoo.com.

Lance A. Hill (1999), formerly in Saint George, is now in McDonough, where he is a trust administrator with SunTrust Bank. He is married to Sheila Rogers, a 1999 Georgia Southern finance and 2001 MBA graduate.

Matthew L. DeLoach (2001), Statesboro, campaign manager for John Stone for Congress, is engaged to Jessica Redmond, an Armstrong Atlantic State University alumna.

Wilkeyda Austin (2003), formerly in Savannah, is now in Stockbridge, where she is a credit analyst for SunTrust Bank, Atlanta. Email: wlaustin@yahoo.com.

Michael “Skip” Swain (2003), Saint Marys, is now a commercial loan officer for The Coastal Bank of Georgia, Kingsland. Email: skipswan@coastalbankofga.com.

Justin McCartney (2004), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Statesboro, where he has been made a partner with CORE and CUISO Financial Services. His wife is Katherine, and they have a daughter, MacKenzie.

Jennifer Suzanne Waters (2004), Savannah, a financial center lender for BB&T, is engaged to Thomas Todd Mayo, an Armstrong Atlantic State University graduate.

Eric Hagen (2005), formerly in Brunswick, is now in Lizelle, where he is in auditing for Georgia Power Company. His wife is Denna. Email: dhagan@cox.net.

Jennie Roseann Powell (2005), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Stockbridge, where she is a tax manager with the Georgia Department of Labor. She is married to Lance A. Hill, a 1999 Georgia Southern finance graduate. While in the MBA program, Sheila was a graduate assistant in the Office of Publications and helped put out the Eagle Executive and other COBA publications. Email: sheilarhill@yahoo.com.

Lance A. Hill (1999), formerly in Saint George, is now in McDonough, where he is a trust administrator with SunTrust Bank. He is married to Sheila Rogers, a 1999 Georgia Southern finance and 2001 MBA graduate.

Matthew L. DeLoach (2001), Statesboro, campaign manager for John Stone for Congress, is engaged to Jessica Redmond, an Armstrong Atlantic State University alumna.

Wilkeyda Austin (2003), formerly in Savannah, is now in Stockbridge, where she is a credit analyst for SunTrust Bank, Atlanta. Email: wlaustin@yahoo.com.

Michael “Skip” Swain (2003), Saint Marys, is now a commercial loan officer for The Coastal Bank of Georgia, Kingsland. Email: skipswan@coastalbankofga.com.

Justin McCartney (2004), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Statesboro, where he has been made a partner with CORE and CUISO Financial Services. His wife is Katherine, and they have a daughter, MacKenzie.

Jennifer Suzanne Waters (2004), Savannah, a financial center lender for BB&T, is engaged to Thomas Todd Mayo, an Armstrong Atlantic State University graduate.

Eric Hagen (2005), formerly in Brunswick, is now in Lizelle, where he is in auditing for Georgia Power Company. His wife is Denna. Email: dhagan@cox.net.

Jennie Roseann Powell (2005), formerly in Louisville, is now in Matthews, where she is the senior pension administrator for Retirement Strategies. She is married to Brandon James, a 2005 Georgia Southern construction management graduate.
Donnie Robinson (2005), Winston, is a financial planning specialist with Atlanta Financial Associates, Atlanta. He is working on an MBA at Georgia State. Email: donniejbrasco32@yahoo.com.

Lauren Dean McCraw (2005), Savannah, is the acct. manager for Synergy Designer Homes. Email: laureenmcc@ymail.com.

Brendy Luttrell (2005), Albany, is a claims adjuster with Progressive Insurance. She is engaged to Kyle Kimmer, a 2003 Georgia Southern graduate. Email: brendy_e_luttrell@progressive.com.

Justin Elam (2005), formerly in Hinesville, is now in Carrollton, where he is the branch manager for American General Finance.

Robert Lee Brown, Jr. (2006), formerly in Kennesaw, is now in Lawrenceville, where he is a claims adjuster, for Liberty Mutual Insurance, Norcross. He is married to Tara Elizabeth Franklin, a 2007 Georgia Southern nursing graduate. Email: robertli brown@libertymutual.com.

Sean T. Frost (2006), Canton, is a collector/AR specialist with Honda Financial Services. Email: frost24@gmail.com.

Travis Turner (2006), Lawrenceville, is an account manager with Coyote Logistics, Alpharetta. Email: travisturner4@charter.net.

Lauret E. Atsegbeau (2007), Lawrenceville, is an account executive with Schneider National, Atlanta. Email: atsegbeau@yahoo.com.

Ryan B. Weigel (2007), is the internal finance auditor for AGL Resources, Atlanta. Email: rweigel@aglresources.com.

Morrell A. McCaskill (2007), formerly in the ‘Boro, is now in Pooler, where he is a financial specialist for Wachovia Bank on Abercorn in Savannah. Email: mmccaskll@georgiasouthern.edu.

General Business

Charles R. Wirt (1971), Miami, FL, is a pilot and an aviation insurance agent with the Southeast Insurance Center, Miami. Email: phlyer48@aol.com.

Information Systems

Darren W. Bridges (1986), Athens, is now the president of Safe Systems, Inc., Alpharetta. His wife is Selena. Email: darren.bridges@safesystems.com.

Ryan B. Brennan (2000), formerly in Atlanta, is now in Roswell, where he is the regional sales manager for Founty Networks. He is married to Heather Bowers. Email: rtbrennan@fountynet.com.

Matt Selph (2002), Dublin, is the MIS coordinator for Fred’s Southeast Distribution Center. He is married to Kristen Davis.

Joshua B. Morris (2003), Alpharetta, is a systems engineer with Safe Systems, Inc. Email: gsusbass@gmail.com.

Jocelyn Carrie Smith (2005), Richmond Hill, recently married Chaz Brett Eure, a 2007 Georgia Southern public relations graduate.

Ryan Richardson (2006), Statesboro, has been named technology director and bank security officer for The Claxton Bank. He is also the owner/founder of Xtreme Computing. His wife is Brenda, and they have a son, Parker.

Logistics

Patrick M. O’Connell (1999), Tulsa, OK, is the director of distribution operations for Hilti, Inc., Broken Arrow, OK. He was on our swim team. Email: poconnell1659@gmail.com.

Matthew S. Laverne (2000), Lithia Springs, is the risk managers/safety director for the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Douglasville. Email: mlaverne@gmail.com.

Jonathan LeFevres (2003), formerly in Atlanta, is now in America, where he is director of commercial relations for the Heart of Georgia and Georgia Midland Railroad. His wife is Heather.

Travis Betz (2004), Pooler, is an aviation officer with the U.S. Army. He is married to Katrina Dickle. Email: travisbetz@bellsouth.net.

Matthew Charles Brown (2004), Conyers, the southeast territory manager for Aquatic Sales, recently married Leah Rebecca Wynn, a Georgia Southern marketing graduate.

Esther J. Harvey (2004), Statesboro, a Lt. in the Georgia Army National Guard, recently returned from her first deployment to Iraq. Her next assignment will take her to the Republic of Georgia for three weeks of training with the country’s army. Email: esther.harvey@yahoo.com.

Eric Allen Schregel (2004), formerly in Brooklyn, is now in Atlanta, where he is a rental acct. manager for Ryder Transportation. He is engaged to Jennifer L. Denmark, a 2004 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Dane Auensen (2006; Delta Sigma Roswell, is the logistics advisor for the Golden Peanut Company, Alpharetta. Email: dauensen@gmail.com.

Justine Willbanks (2007), formerly in Cartersville, is now in Gray. An employee of the Saddle Creek Corp., Macon, he recently married Kara Mulyan, a 2007 Georgia Southern COE graduate.

Paul L. Rohenthaler (2007), Portal, a Lt. in the Army National Guard, is married to Pamela Kay Neville, a 2006 Georgia Southern art history graduate.

Darryl M. Lott, Jr. (2007), formerly in Macon, is now in Alachua, FL, where he is the dispatcher office manager for Wal-Mart, Inc. Email: mlott@hotmail.com.

Management

Kathy A. Daniel (1980), West Africa, is a missionary for the International Missionary Board. Email: loveafrica@usa.net.

Jennifer Bass Thomas (1995), Savannah, is now an HR business consultant for Memorial Health. She is married to Thomas Woelber, a 1996 Georgia Southern accounting graduate.

Amy Fox Balzarano (1998), Stamford, CT, is the HR manager for Alea North America, Rocky Hill, CT. She is married to Marc Balzarano. Email: amy.balzarano@aleagroup.com.

Amy Haggans (2000), Metter, currently employed with AirTran Airways, recently married Britt Robertson Terrell.

Christopher D. Morgan (2000), Pooler, is the operations manager for Staples, Savannah. He is married to Marrianna Webb.

Heather Althe (2001), Pooler, is now an assistant manager for human resources for the Georgia Ports Authority, Garden City. She recently became a foster parent for two children. Email: halthe@geaports.com.

Matt Henderson (2001), Woodstock, is employed by Pediatric services of America and completing a masters in accounting. He is married to Nancy Settle.

Scott M. Bogen (2003), Ft. Myers, FL, is the sales and marketing account manager for the Florida Everglades hockey team. Email: sbogen2003@yahoo.com.

DeWayne Grice (2003), Statesboro, recently portrayed Bill Perry in the Avertit Center for the Arts production of “The Life Legacy of Erk Russell: A Life Done Right.” DeWayne is married to Lori, an award winning photographer and Georgia Southern marketing alumna.

M. Wayne Murphy (2004), Pooler, has been promoted to assistant golf professional for the Club of Savannah Harbor. Email: wayne.murphy@westin.com.

Sarah T. Chester (2004), Statesboro, has been promoted to assistant banking officer/deposit specialist with First Southern National Bank. She is married to Justin Chester.

Dana L. Beneman (2005), formerly in Statesboro, is now in Odessa, TX, where she is a Caseworker II with the Department of Family & Protective Services. Dana was on the Lady Eagles Basketball Team for four years. Email: divab2@hotmail.com.

Bradley C. Bonner (2006), Statesboro, is a professional poker player online. He is married to April Lane, a current COE student, and they have a daughter. Cadence (3). Email: goavengers83@yahoo.com.

Lagan E. Lanier (2006), Cobbtown, is the manager/owner of Redville Electric and Ace Hardware, Redville. He is married to Heather Jones, a 2005 Georgia Southern psychology graduate. Email: ilanier11@hotmail.com.

Clay M. Elrod (2006), McDonough, is a trainmaster for Norfolk Southern, Garden. He manages railroad operations in Middle Georgia for Norfolk Southern. Email: clay.elrod@nscorp.com.
ALUMNIVILLE

William M. West, II (2006), formerly in Whigham, is now in Macon, where he is the general manager of Auto Credit of Macon. Email: wwest29@gmail.com.

Renard (R. J.) Monford (2007), Atlanta, is in outside sales with Fastenal, Decatur. R. J. was on the football team. Email: gaced@stores.fastenal.com.

Marketing

Tracy Carnes Alter (1990), Albuquerque, NM, is the director of education and PR for the New Mexico Health Care Association. She is married to Joel Alter, and they have two daughters, Jordan (15) and Hailey (10). Email: ab@tracy505@msn.com.

Paul S. Greenspan (1991), formerly in Marietta, is now in Bradenton, FL, where he is president and owner for Ready-to-Sell. His wife is Mout. Email: paulgreenspan@ready-to-sell.com.

Madeline Ann Chandler (1992), Ellijay, is an innkeeper at The Overlook Inn, Chatworth. Email: madelinechandler@hotmail.com.

Matt Fowler (1994), Suwanee, is the owner of Georgia Water and Fire Restoration. He is married to Tina Butler, a 1994 Georgia Southern finance graduate, and they have a daughter, Morgan. Email: tina@thefowlerconnection.com.

Marty Sauls, IV (1994), Ridgeland, SC, public relations director of Tradition Hilton Head, Hardeeville, SC, has been elected president of the Jasper County (SC) Chamber of Commerce.

Waymond F. Allen (1998; MBA 2002), Pooler, is now a manufacturing engineer with Gulfstream Aerospace, Savannah. He is married to Kimberly McClain, a 2000 Georgia Southern nutrition graduate. Email: waymond.allen@gulfstream.com.

Kyle A. Hensel (2002; MBA 2003), formerly in Statesboro, is now in McDonough, where he is the area director of the Clayton State Small Business Development Center. Email: kylehensel@clayton.edu.

Sharon Jones (2004), formerly in Norcross, is now in Statesboro, where she is the office manager for Fire Tech.

Brandie Ellison (2005), Atlanta, is a junior brand planner with Fitzgerald & Co. Email: brandieellison2003@yahoo.com.

Matthew B. Paige (2005; 2007 MBA), Statesboro, an employee of Wachovia Bank, Augusta, recently married Charlotte Rushing, a current Augusta State student.

Lindi Lee Ellwood (2005), Register, an 8th grade math teacher for the Burke County BOE, is engaged to Will C. Sullivan, IV, a 2005 ABAC graduate.

Jamie A. DeMersman (2006), Decatur, is a branch manager with Wells Fargo. Email: jdemersman@gmail.com.

Rachl Gibbs (2006), formerly in Pooler, is now in Knoxville, TN, where she is in international freight logistics with C.H. Robinson Worldwide. She is married to Georgia Southern alumnus Marshall Mason. Email: rachelmasn@gmail.com.

Leah Rebecca Wynn (2006), Pooler, is an import customs brokerage agent in the Savannah office of Expeditors International, is married to Matthew Charles Brown, a 2004 Georgia Southern logistics graduate.

Staci Anderson (2006), Fort Mill, SC, is now a marketing analyst with Wachovia, Charlotte. Email: stacianderson22@aol.com.

Tara Prindle (2007), formerly in Marietta, is now in Atlanta, where she is the executive administrative assistant for Alpha Delta Pi. Email: tprindle@alphadeltapi.org.

Desmund L. Nicely (2007), Stone Mountain, is an online consultant with CareerBuilder.com, Norcross. Email: despund.nicely@careerbuilder.com.

Takisha Brown (2007), formerly in McDonough, is now in Lithuania, where she is a regional financial rep with Sherwin Williams, Tucker. Email: kiki0285@hotmail.com.

MBA

William B. McLeod (1990), Ashburn, VA, is now the sales director for Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., Ashburn. Email: billymac60@gmail.com.

Rob Stockton (1997), Tiger, general manager of Duvall Ford Co., Clayton, was inducted into the Georgia Southern Athletics Hall of Fame. He was on the football team from 1992–1995, First Team Academic All-American in 1995, and Second Team All Southern Conference as a defensive back. He is credited with 322 tackles, 7 interceptions, and 20 pass break-ups. His wife is Shera.

Christian A. Jones (2000), Savannah, is the pharmacy manager for St. Joseph’s/Candler. He is married to Marie Palmer, and they are expecting their first child in August. Email: cjonespharmd@bellsouth.net.

Gina Taormina (2004), Statesboro, is CFO/COO for The Neurological Center of East Georgia. She is married to Dr. Michael Taormina.

Ryan S. Martin (2005), Pooler, is vice president of The Coastal Bank. He is married to Leigh Gladden. Email: rmartin85@comcast.net.

Sarah Stokes Meyer (2006), Brunswick, is the finance director for the Coastal Medical Access Project. She is married to Matthew Meyer. Email: smeyer@cmappa.org.

Ted W. Gibson, Sr. (2007), Pooler, is the senior procurement project manager with Gulfstream. His wife is Bertha. Email: twgibson014@yahoo.com.

Office Administration

Barbara Thompkins Gailey (1973), formerly in Conyers, is now in Hoschton, where she is retired. She is married to Tony Gailey, and the proud grandmother of four. Email: bgandtg@comcast.net.

In Memoriam

Bill Pallack (BS 1964), Hixson, TN, passed away on May 7, 2008.


Kevin C. Gordon (Mgt 1996), Riverdale, passed away on June 20, 2005.

Tony Petrea, Jr. (IS 2002), Tybee Island, passed away on April 6, 2008.

Nancy Jenkins Welch (1968), Highlands, NC, formerly of Statesboro, passed away on October 31, 2008.

Nancy Welch (photo courtesy of Statesboro Herald)

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

COBA Alumni Questionnaire

Full Name (include maiden name) 
Spouse’s Name (include maiden name) 
Georgia Southern Graduation Year(s) Degree(s) Major(s) 
Spouse Degree and Year 
Home Address City State Zip 
Home Phone Number ( ) Business Phone Number ( ) 
Employer Business Title 
Business Address City State Zip 
E-Mail Address 
Preferred Address for delivery ( ) Home ( ) Office 

Complete this form and return to Lewis Stewart, Georgia Southern University, Business Alumni, P. O. Box 8002E, Statesboro, GA 30460-8002.
Homecoming Professor for a Day

Homecoming Professor for a Day has become a very popular program. Each year at homecoming participants share insight into their various areas of expertise, careers, and experiences since their own college days. John W. Lucht, CPA, CPEC, serves as partner in charge of Accounting, Advisory and Assurance Services for Smith & Howard, Atlanta. John received his accounting degree from The University of Georgia. He is a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs.

Alex Knight, CPA, is a partner in the Advisory and Business Services Group at Habil, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, which focuses primarily on tax planning for high net worth individuals, corporate executives, athletes, and entertainers. He earned both a BS in business administration with a concentration in accounting and a master of professional accounting with an emphasis on taxation from the University of Tennessee. Alex is on the Board of Directors of the British American Business Group and he serves as the organization’s president.

Executive in Residence

Jonathan Kraftchick, CPA and manager of training and recruiting for Cherry, Beckart & Holland, CPAs in Raleigh, NC, spoke at the annual School of Accountancy (SOA) Executive in Residence program held in October 2008 at the Performing Arts Center, Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building at Georgia Southern.

In his training role, Kraftchick is responsible for implementing and evaluating the firm’s training and continuing education strategies through course development and teaching.

In his appearance as keynote speaker for the Executive in Residence program, he led a very informative, spirited, yet light hearted lecture to a packed auditorium of Georgia Southern students. Feedback from the students was excellent and many expressed regret it could not last longer than the hour and one-half session, which included questions and answers on financial literacy and how to manage credit. Since 2005, Mr. Kraftchick has led several financial literacy courses throughout North Carolina, mainly focusing on topics such as getting and staying out of debt, budgeting, couples’ finance, and wealth management. In 2006, he created a college student finance series to help graduating students to transition to the “real” world.

Mr. Kraftchick attended the University of Georgia initially majoring in theatre and religion before setting off to become an actor. Realizing that waiting tables and begging for tips was not the lifestyle he wanted, he transferred to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he received a BA in economics. He earned his master of accounting in 2004 and now spends a majority of his time conducting audits and consulting engagements for public and private companies throughout the southeast. He is editor of two newspapers published monthly and quarterly serves as adjunct professor of accounting at Elon University.

The School of Accountancy’s Executive in Residence program was established in 1996 to bring high profile, highly successful executives to campus to encourage accounting students and to share with them what it takes to have meaningful and rewarding careers. Each year, the SOA invites executives from different career paths to illustrate the vast array of opportunities that exists for accounting graduates. “This has become one of the students’ favorite programs,” said Chuck Harter, SOA director. “Students know they can do well in the accounting profession, but when they hear about the accomplishments of these executives and the stories of challenges, perseverance, and success, it really registers with them,” he added. “The students, faculty, and staff all seem to enjoy these EIR programs. They have become a highlight of the academic year in the College of Business Administration,” Harter concluded.

Dinner with the Dean

The recent Dinner with the Dean series has evolved to help COBA make new friends and identify potential supporters for the College of Business Administration. The events usually take place as a small group setting, hosted by an individual or company, administered by Linda Wilke and Jamie Lane from COBA’s external relations department, and keynoted by Dean Shiffler. Guests are invited in order to build relationships within the community and present the current needs of the College.

The first two Dinners with the Dean were held in Macon in June and September. The third Dinner with the Dean was held in Dublin in October. The fourth event this semester took place in Savannah and was hosted by Hancock Askew in October.

Future events are currently in the works to take place in Orlando, FL, Atlanta, and Hilton Head Island, SC. Dean Shiffler said, “I enjoy being the guest of honor at these events. It is an excellent opportunity to be able to meet with the people who help make this college special. The ongoing cultivation between the college and the community is essential to our future success.”

Dinner with the Dean has contributed to the college’s success in building the base of annual and endowed contributors reflected in the chart above. For 2008, 294 annual contributors offered an average of $272 each for $80,075 reached in annual contributions, while 17 contributors provided an average of $9,089 each for $154,510 in endowments.